

VOLUME ONE

TRACING PATTERNS FOR OAK LEAVES, FLOWERS ROSES AND SCROLLS

BY PETER MAIN

INTRODUCTION

Designs by Al Stohlman 1919-1998. Al and Ann Stohlman have produced an amazing thirty five books on all facets of working with leather. These books are published by the Tandy Leather Factory, Fort Worth, Texas, USA.

Al kept and filed, almost every drawing, design, pattern and idea he ever had....over thirty years of his work is recorded....all in pencil. Al only ever 'inked' those patterns meant for reproduction in works for The Tandy Leather Company. As you browse through the pages of this book, you will clearly see the 'creative genius' of the man, in every flowing curve.

The designs presented here are just a fraction of what Al Stohlman has left the world to see. The patterns are the Stohlmans personal designs not previously published. They are from gifts made for friends, commissions, their own accessories and many unidentified rough pencil sketches. Included are some designs from gifts made for Ann during their thirty four years of marriage. More pattern books will follow, including a book that could be almost solely devoted to the drawings of horses.

Ann was responsible for 'tidying up' Al's designs. Al roughed out hundreds of patterns for himself (all in pencil) with many 'construction lines'. He would tidy these up as he traced the design onto leather. When he started to teach Ann how to carve in 1964, Ann found the 'many lines' confusing, and asked Al which line to follow. Much to Ann's amusement, Al would always reply 'pick the best one'.

As a result of those early days, most of the 'pencilled patterns' that Al filed away, are fairly precise. Many of the original designs that I have 'inked' have the background areas marked with colored pencil. This is an indication that Ann carved these patterns. Al was continually creating new designs (that he alone could follow), and

it was not always obvious to others where the background areas appear. Ann Stohlman has carved hundreds of these designs; many of them to decorate the saddles she has made.

THE PATTERNS

I have presented these patterns in a new style. You will notice a slight 'drop-shadow' on the lines ...this clearly shows where the lines overlap, also indicating on which side of the line to bevel. The textured background areas are also clearly shown, thus eliminating any confusion with unfamiliar designs.

These pages are printed on one side only. This will enable you to turn the page over and trace the pattern in the reverse direction, allowing you more versatility. These tracings can be done on a lightbox or traced up against a window. Some of the designs presented here have a 'center line' shown, these will need to be 'reverse traced' to complete the pattern. There are also a few designs that are shown in two parts, over two pages. These are clearly shown with indications where the patterns meet. You may also 'photocopy' these designs for your own personal (non commercial) use to an enlarged or reduced size. This again will allow you to have a design to fit almost any project. Many of the designs may be joined to create a pattern of a larger size. Just be sure that the pattern 'flows', and is pleasing to the eye.

It is an honour to be able to 'ink' the patterns of the great Al Stohlman, and I am indebted to Ann for this opportunity. To be surrounded with hundreds and hundreds of pieces of paper created by Al is an amazing experience. I look forward to continuing the process.

Dundan.

First published 2001 by The Australian Leather Craftsman Publications 264 Hume Highway, Camden, NSW, Australia 2570. © Copyright Peter Main National Library of Australia ISBN 0-9578802-0-0 All rights reserved. Subject to the Copyright Act 1968, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form, by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission of the publisher.























































































